

Montague Historical Commission  
Minutes/summary of MHC monthly meeting of October 24, 2022

Meeting held in person at the Town Hall and on-line.

**Commissioners present:**

David Brule, chair  
Chris Clawson  
Ed Gregory  
Suzanne LoMonto  
Janel Nockleby  
Chris Sawyer Lauçanno

**Proceedings:**

1. Minutes of September 26, 2022 voted and accepted unanimously.
2. The required public hearing under the Demolition Delay By-law is set for November 16 at 6PM in the Town Hall. The goal of the required hearing is to determine if the Farren building is a *preferably preserved building* as described in Section B of the By-law.
3. The notice of the public hearing will be handled by the Planning Office.
4. A point of information was asked by a member of the public concerning the hearing agenda. Answer, to wit:
  - a. The applicant will be present
  - b. Municipal entities, other boards may attend
  - c. Members of the public, potential buyers could be present
  - d. CSL remarks that this should essentially be a listening session.
  - e. MHC should eventually vote on whether or not the buildings are preferably preserved.
5. Question: will documents related to the demolition permit be shared? A: in affirmative
6. Question from JN: Has the list of artifacts compiled been shared with Trinity? A: Trinity has confirmed receipt, and they are still working on it.
7. Kyle Cogswell of Montague FD comments that the Farren fire suppression (sprinkler) system must by law be maintained operational, so building must be heated to keep from freezing the system.
8. The so-called Blacksmith Shop in Montague Center site visit will be organized. Ed Gregory will be in charge. CSL summarizes the situation:

- a. The building is listed by Mass Historic Commission as having significance.
  - b. Prior to any demolition, there will need to be an outside review.
  - c. The building is sound, not unsafe.
  - d. It is in the hands of Parks and Recreation Dept as to what they want to do in light of evaluation requirements.
9. It is noted that the Canal District meeting will be on October 27 at the Discovery Center.
  10. It is noted that commissioners Clawson and Gregory will present their research and film on the genesis of the Turners Falls Community on October 29 at the Discovery Center.
  11. JN reminded commissioners that there is still time to propose Historic Preservation perspectives to the on-going public survey on future planning for the town.

Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon.  
Submitted by D. Brule, Chair.